



Sandra Robbie

Diversity speaker and filmmaker, “Mendez vs. Westminster: For All the Children”

Age: 48

Residence: Santa Ana

Person in the news YOU’d most like to meet: Oprah Winfrey and Salma Hayek

What inspires YOU: I love the dialog, emotion and surprise of sharing the Mendez history with groups

Sandra Robbie is taking an education crusade on the road – in a 1967

VW bus. A decade ago, Robbie learned about “Mendez vs. Westminster,” the 1947 case that made California the first state to end school segregation. Though Robbie grew up here, she had never heard of the Mexican-Americans who stood up against legalized racism in the case that influenced the Supreme Court’s 1954 ruling to desegregate schools nationwide.

She wanted others to know too.

In 2002, Robbie finished an Emmy Award-winning documentary about Mendez. She wrote a children’s book, and even consulted on a Mendez postage stamp, due out in September.

Next, Robbie will drive across California with a film crew, speaking to groups along the way.

“I haven’t driven manual in a long time. I can’t wait,” she says. “I am a Mendez maniac.”